

### THE CANADIAN COPYRIGHT ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS ELECTED—THE MOVEMENT TO OBTAIN A NEW LAW WILL GO ON.

THE Canadian Copyright Association met in Toronto last month, among those present being Messrs. Dan. A. Rose, vice-president; J. Murray, R. L. Patterson, A. S. Irving, W. Copp, Geo. N. Morang, Bernard McEvoy, R. T. Lancefield, secretary, D. T. McAinsh and Atwood Fleming.

Mr. Dan. A. Rose, vice-president, occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings referred to what had been done in the past in order to secure a proper copyright law in Canada, and place the present unsatisfactory state of things on a better footing. The subject had been thoroughly threshed out, and there was no opposition from either political party. It was not a political matter at all, but one of ordinary business and straight justice. There was every reason to suppose that it could now be satisfactorily settled. A draft bill had been prepared as a result of several conferences between the Canadian Copyright Association and Mr. Hall Caine, who represented the British authors; the principles of that measure had been assented to by both sides of the House of Commons. There would, therefore, seem to be no reason why it should not pass into law. It was not a matter that need take up much of the time of the House, seeing that the righteousness and expediency of the measure were conceded. He, therefore, trusted that a united effort would be made to secure this desirable result.

Mr. George N. Morang, who spoke next, said that in the present ripe state of the question it would seem to be a want of judgment on the part of the association if vigorous steps were not at once taken with a view to relieve the publishing trade from the inconvenience and injustice under which it suffered from the incidence of the present law, or rather the want of it. The publishing trade had made headway under serious difficulties, and it deserved some attention. He concluded by moving the following resolution:

"That, in view of the importance of the publishing interest in Canada, which now gives employment to a large number of persons, and in view also of the great injustice and inconvenience occasioned by the chaotic state of copyright in Canada, immediate steps be taken to urge on the Government to settle the question on the basis of the draft bill agreed upon by this association, as representing Canadian interests, and by Mr. Hall Caine, as representing the British authors, and that the executive of this association take requisite action in the

matter and interview the Government at once."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. A. S. Irving.

Mr. J. Murray said that in order that the enterprise might proceed with success, it was requisite that the sinews of war should be provided. The association had shown no hanging back in this respect in past times, and he did not anticipate any difficulty on that score now. He moved "That the executive committee be authorized to take steps to collect funds to promote the work of the association." The resolution was seconded by Mr. R. L. Patterson.

The following officers and executive were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. Ross Robertson, M.P.; vice-president, Dan. A. Rose; secretary, Richard T. Lancefield; treasurer, A. F. Rutter; The executive to be composed of the officers of the association, with Messrs. George N. Morang, Jas. Murray, R. L. Patterson, John R. Barber, M.P.P., A. S. Irving, Rev. Dr. Briggs, D. T. McAinsh, W. Copp, and Atwood Fleming. Steps were taken to interview the Government on an early day.

### A PLEA FOR SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS.

PERHAPS some of you who are in the retail business would like a combination scheme adopted—one that would allow the book to be sold by subscription and yet give you the privilege of supplying your own special customers. I am afraid this arrangement wouldn't work. I wish I could convince you of the necessity of keeping subscription books out of the bookstores. Let us see what the effect would be of allowing the trade to fill orders. We will suppose that a fine edition of some standard author has been brought out. An agent is secured who goes to some good book town; he interests several parties; explains that the work is sold only by subscription; that it is not for sale in the bookstores, and that if the man wants it now is the time to buy. It is human nature to procrastinate, the prospective buyer is interested, really wants the work, but thinks he will get it at some future time. The agent tells him that he will only be in town for a short time and that it cannot be had of the bookseller. The man finally tells him that he will subscribe, and asks him to call the next day. On his way home that night he drops in at the bookstore and asks for the book. Can he get it there? The clerk says, "Certainly; we don't keep it in stock, but we can get it for you." When the agent calls the following day he is treated to a very warm reception, and is handled "without gloves." He gets everything—except the order. What is the result, so far as the publisher is concerned? You will

perhaps say: "What is the difference? the publisher gets the order from the bookseller, and it is just as good as from the agent." But does he get it? I contend that in nine cases out of ten the man never comes back. When the man is interested, then is the time to secure the order. But this is not all—not only has the publisher lost the order, but, what is more serious, the agent as well. To successfully sell books by subscription it is necessary for the public to understand that it must buy from the agent; that the bookseller cannot supply orders. The agent states in his canvass as a reason why orders should be given to him that the book cannot be obtained at the bookstore. If we accept orders from the bookseller, even though we make our own delivery, do you not see that the subscriber thinks he is getting the work from the bookseller? This does the publisher, as well as the agent, great harm. The subscription publisher is naturally anxious to get all the orders he can, but he must protect his agents. The whole method and theory of selling by subscription makes this imperative. In the case just mentioned the agent is disgusted with the house; thinks there is no use wasting his time in creating a demand for a work that, after all, can be bought through the dealer. He goes to another publisher—one that he thinks will protect the agent. The publisher loses not only that one order, but a dozen or twenty more.—E. L. Dillingham, of Scribners, before the Booksellers' League, New York.

### DEATH OF MR. JAMES PAYN.

James Payn, the well-known English novelist, once editor of Chambers' Journal and the Cornhill Magazine, died on Friday, March 25. James Payn was born at Cheltenham, England, on Feb. 8, 1835, and was educated at Eton, Woolwich Academy, and Trinity College, Cambridge. Among his best-known books are "The Family Scapegrace," "Married Beneath Him," "Found Dead," "A Perfect Treasure," "Like Father, Like Son," "A Woman's Vengeance," "The Best of Husbands," "Two Hundred Pounds Reward," "For Cash Only," "Thicker Than Water," "The Luck of the Darrells," "A Prince of the Blood," etc.

### ZOLA TO LECTURE HERE.

It is reported that Emile Zola is to come to this continent for a lecture tour as soon as he shall be permitted to do so by certain complications in which he is involved in France. Edmund Gerson, of New York, it is said, will be his manager. Mr. Gerson has translated several of his books. Zola has been permitted to take an appeal from his conviction, and the time of his visit to America will depend upon the result.